



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE

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WATER THIEF CONVICTED AND ORDERED TO PAY RESTITUTION

San Diego, CA (November 14, 2000) — He had stolen water from the City of San Diego for six months. Neighbors watched him illegally tamper with a water box in broad daylight. Now defendant Guy Newberry must restore water service to the City, pay restitution, and remain law abiding for three years as a condition of probation.

In San Diego Superior Court today, Newberry pleaded no contest to one count of misdemeanor utility theft, a violation of the California Penal Code. The City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit alleged that the defendant committed the theft when he connected a plastic pipe to the water meter at the curb of his home in the 3000 block of Massasoit Avenue, allowing water to flow freely into his home without paying for it. The City's Water Department investigated when the water was shut off for non-payment of services and found illegal hook-ups.

Superior Court Commissioner Sandra L. Berry placed the defendant on three years of probation and ordered him to pay the City Treasurer \$255 for investigative costs, \$623 in restitution for the illegal water service, and a \$100 restitution fine to the court. He also was ordered to pay the City of San Diego to have his water service restored.

"It is unfair for all of the people of San Diego when one person gets water for free and the rest of us must pay," City Attorney Casey Gwinn said. "This case shows the cooperative effort of community members, the Water Department, and the City Attorney's Office to stop this utility theft."

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